

NEWS

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To General Sessions**Tofte's CIA Case  
Given Lower Court**

District Court Judge William B. Jones yesterday transferred to General Sessions Court a complaint against the CIA by dismissed secret agent Hans V. Tofte.

Mr. Tofte is suing the intelligence agency for \$25,000 or the return of a personal letter he says he got from CIA director Richard M. Helms in the fall of 1955.

His attorney, Byron Scott, accused the CIA in Court today of manufacturing the letter the agency earlier said was the one taken from Mr. Tofte's Georgetown home last summer in a raid to retrieve secret CIA documents.

The presence of the documents in his home later led to his dismissal.

Mr. Scott said the letter offered Tofte, if he would dismiss his suit against the agency,

was "a created letter" and not the original seized in his home.

That letter, Mr. Tofte has claimed, invited him back to the Agency "for life."

Judge Jones, at today's hearing, refused to dismiss the complaint or reduce the amount of damages sought, but agreed to transfer the case to the lower court.

Mr. Scott said his only objection to the transfer was that he had already done his homework in anticipation of a District Court jury trial and would now have to go over the entire case again.

The transfer of the case means that the usual \$10,000 damages limit in General Sessions Court will not apply to the Tofte complaint and that he could still be awarded the original claim.